

I. Introduction.

II. Jesus conducts ministry in Galilee. v. 14-15

- A. Jesus' Galilean ministry is recorded in Luke 4:14-9:50. Mt. 4:13-18:35 Mk. 1:14-9:50
- B. The pattern for Jesus' ministry is established.
 - 1. He ministers by the power of the Holy Spirit. v. 14a 4:1,18a 3:16,22 Acts 10:38 1:8
 - 2. The focus of His ministry is teaching. v. 15a 4:31 5:3 6:6 Mark 1:14-15
 - 3. He often teaches in the synagogues. v. 15b 4:44 6:6 13:10 Acts 13:5 17:2,17 18:4
 - 4. He becomes famous and His teaching is highly praised. v. 15c,14b 4:32 Mt. 7:29
- C. Application for those who follow Jesus.
 - 1. We need the Holy Spirit to empower our ministries. Acts 6:3 1 Pet. 4:10-11
 - 2. Proclamation of God's Word is central.
 - 3. One sound evangelistic strategy is to go to people who may be prepared.
 - 4. Earthly fame and the praise of men usually don't last long.
 - 5. We should glorify God when we hear the Word of Christ. Eph. 2:17 1 Th. 2:13

III. Jesus comes to His hometown. v. 16-19

- A. Jesus' experience in His hometown is a representative example of His Galilean ministry. v. 16a 1:26 2:39,51 4:23 18:37 Mark 6:1-6 10:47 Jo. 1:46 Mt. 13:53-58
- B. Jesus enters the synagogue. v. 16b-17
 - 1. It was Jesus' custom to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath. 13:10
 - 2. We imitate Jesus' faithfulness as we gather for worship. Heb. 10:25 Ps. 122:1ff
 - 3. What was the synagogue service like? Ps. 145-150 Deut. 6:4-9 Acts 13:15a 2:42 Num. 6:24-26
 - 4. Jesus is handed the scroll of the book of Isaiah. v. 17
 - 5. He reads from Isaiah 61 which speaks of the deliverance of Judah after their exile, and which points forward to the ultimate Messianic deliverance.
- C. God is rescuing His oppressed people. v. 18-19 Isa. 61:1-2 58:6
 - 1. The speaker is the Messiah Himself – Prophet and Deliverer.
 - 2. He is anointed by the Holy Spirit. 3:22 Isa. 11:2 Acts 10:38
 - 3. The Messiah is sent to preach the gospel (good news). 3:18 1:19 2:10
 - 4. His message declares hope for the poor and downtrodden. 18:35 Isa. 42:6-7 35:5
 - 5. He proclaims the year of the LORD's favor – Jubilee! Lev. 25:8-13,40 Isa. 49:8
 - 6. Why does Jesus leave out the second phrase in Isaiah 61:2 – “and the day of vengeance of our God.” 3:7-9,17 John 3:17-19

IV. Jesus makes a stupendous claim. v. 20-21

- A. After the reading, those in attendance eagerly await Jesus' exposition. v. 20
- B. The Scripture is fulfilled and history is made.
 - 1. Jesus declares that He is the Messiah, anointed by the Spirit and sent by the Father. 3:22 4:32 11:20 Acts 10:38 4:27 Isa. 11:2 61:1 48:16 John 4:26 Heb. 1:9
 - 2. The awaited eschatological age of salvation has dawned and God's great work of deliverance has begun. 1:78

- C. Some misunderstand the nature of the kingdom Jesus brings.
1. The Jews expected the overthrow of the Roman oppressors and the establishment of an earthly kingdom.
 2. Those who preach a social gospel declare that the chief work of the church is to provide material help to the needy. Mark 8:36
 3. Promoters of liberation theology claim that the church's work is to promote the overthrow of unjust governments and institutions.
 4. Promoters of the prosperity gospel falsely teach that all Christians should enjoy health and wealth in this life. Mark 8:36 Col. 4:18 Acts 11:28
 5. God's promise of deliverance was fulfilled in their hearing without any literal fulfillment that day.
- D. Jesus' primary work of deliverance is spiritual – Salvation comes in the proclamation of the gospel.
1. He preaches good news to those who are poor in Spirit – those who sense their need. 1:52 6:20 16:22 18:13,25 Isa. 66:2 64:6 Mt. 5:3 1 Co. 1:26-29 Rev. 3:14ff
 2. Those who were captive to Satan, sin and death are set free. John 8:31-36 Heb. 2:14-15 Eph. 2:1-2
 3. Those who were spiritually blind are given sight. 1:78-79 2:32 24:16,31 Isa. 9:2 Ps. 82:5 Jer. 5:21 Jo. 8:12 12:40 Acts 26:18 13:47 2 Co. 4:4,6 Ro. 11:8 Eph. 5:8
 4. The oppressed are released. 11:46 Mt. 23:4 11:28-30 Acts 15:10 1 John 5:3
 5. Jesus is our Jubilee. 2 Cor. 8:9 Col. 2:14 Ro. 6:6,16-20 Eph. 4:17-24 Ga. 4:6-7
 6. He inaugurates the era of God's favor in which reconciliation is offered to all. Isa. 55:6-7 49:8 Gal. 4:4
- E. What then is the significance of Jesus' miracles in which He literally feeds the hungry, makes the blind see, and releases those who are captive to demons?
1. Jesus' miracles symbolize spiritual deliverance and serve as signs which prove His identity and His mission. 7:21-22 8:26-39 18:35ff Mark 2:9-12 John 9:39
 2. His primary work is preaching not healing.
 3. The church, in its care for those in need, reflects the values of the new Messianic age. Gal. 6:10 2:10 Acts 2:44-45 4:32-37 6:1ff
 4. We will enjoy perfect earthly deliverance when He returns. Isa. 65:17ff Rev. 7:16 21:1ff

V. Conclusion.

- A. It is still the year of the LORD's favor. Isa. 55:6-7 Mt. 11:28ff Heb. 3:7ff
- B. We are involved in rescue work – proclaiming good news to the oppressed. Acts 1:8

Discussion questions

1. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' public ministry?
2. What is the focus of Jesus' ministry?
3. Why does Jesus go to the synagogues?
4. How do people misinterpret Jesus' mission?
5. What is the primary sense in which Jesus offers sight to the blind and release to the captives?
6. What is the significance of Jesus' miracles which literally heal and free?
7. How would you answer someone who believes in liberation theology or a social gospel?
8. How would you answer someone who believes that Jesus came to give His followers health and prosperity?
9. How are you involved in rescue work?